

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION
SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0004197-07-0

Permittee: WI DNR OSCEOLA FISH HATCHERY, 2517 93rd Avenue, Osceola, WI 54020

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: WI DNR Osceola Fish Hatchery, 2517 93rd Avenue, Osceola, Wisconsin

Receiving Water and Location: Unnamed tributary to the St. Croix River, Polk County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: The Department of Natural Resources owns and operates the Osceola Fish Hatchery for the State of Wisconsin. Staff from the Bureau of Fisheries Management manages the facility. The station produces approximately 33,000 pounds of trout on an annual basis. The water supply for the facility's indoor and outdoor raceways is provided entirely by artesian wells located on the property. All hatchery flow-through water and raceway cleaning wastewater are collected and treated in a 56,000 gallon settling pond prior to discharge to an unnamed tributary of the St. Croix River.

The portion of the St. Croix River where discharge occurs is classified as Exceptional Resource Waters (ERW) under Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 102. This code requires that new or increased discharges to ERWs meet the background conditions of the receiving water as well as completing an antidegradation review. An increased discharge was not requested, therefore, an antidegradation review is not needed. Also, the facility was permitted before 1989 (promulgation date of NR 102) so limits can be based on fish and aquatic life criteria rather than based on the background conditions of the St. Croix. The area of the tributary discharge on the St. Croix must meet public water supply standards (Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 104.22). All limits found within the draft permit were calculated to meet this standard.

It is the Department's intention to renew the permit for another term. The proposed new permit expiration date will be December 31, 2011. Appropriate discharge limitations, monitoring requirements, and reporting conditions will be included in the permit. Changes from the previous permit include: Monitoring results for nitrogen ammonia are consistently below limits calculated in accordance with the new ammonia rule; therefore, limits are not required this permit term. Hydrogen peroxide is used infrequently to help control severe fungus outbreaks. During the last permit term there was a use restriction of 1 gallon per day, this has been increase to 6 gallons per day to increase effectiveness of the treatments. Recent research documenting the decay rate and toxicity support this decision. A checklist that takes into consideration the toxicity of a facility's effluent as a whole indicates the hatchery will need to complete 2 acute toxicity biomonitoring tests and 2 chronic biomonitoring tests during the permit term. These tests are taken to insure that the combined effects of the effluent are not toxic to aquatic life short term (acute) or throughout a species life cycle (chronic). A compliance schedule has also been added to develop a management plan for any future removal of solids from the raceways.

Permit Drafter: Sheri A. Snowbank, DNR, 810 Maple Street, Spooner, WI 54801, (715) 635-4131, snowbs@dnr.state.wi.us

Basin Engineer: Peter Prusak, DNR, 1341 2nd Avenue, Cumberland, WI 54829, (715) 822-5421, prusap@dnr.state.wi.us

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, or to request a public hearing, may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received no later than 30 days after the publication date of this public notice will be considered along with other information on file in making a final decision regarding the permit. Where designated as a reviewable surface water discharge permit, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is allowed up to 90 days to submit comments or objections regarding this permit determination.

A public informational hearing may be held if response to this notice indicates significant public interest pursuant to s. 283.49, Stats., or if a petition requesting a hearing is received from 5 or more persons. Requests for a public informational hearing shall state the following: the name and address of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the interest in the proposed permit of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the reasons for the request; and the issues proposed to be considered at the hearing.

Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit and fact sheet (if required), may be inspected and copied at the permit drafter's or basin engineer's office, Monday through Friday (except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please call the permit drafter or basin engineer for directions to their office location, if necessary. Information on this permit action may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter at (715) 635-4131 or by writing to the Department. Reasonable costs (usually 20 cents per page) will be charged for copies of information in the file other than the public notice and fact sheet. Permit information is also available on the internet at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/ww>. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.

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